



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – HALINOR
HOMES, INC., HALINOR 2**

We have completed a review of one group home operated by Halinor Homes, Inc., Halinor 2. Halinor Homes, Inc. contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Halinor 2 is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Halinor 2 was providing services for five Los Angeles County DCFS children. Halinor 2 is located in the Fourth District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to verify whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of Halinor 2's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspection, and interviews with two children placed in the home at the time of the review. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the facility, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, Halinor 2 was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. However, the home needs to make several repairs to the facility, provide emancipation services to eligible residents, include residents in activity planning, and provide staff training to enhance the interactions between the residents and staff.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management has agreed to provide a corrective action plan within 15 business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact DeWitt Roberts at (626) 293-1101.

JTM:DR:CC

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer
Kenny Le, Executive Director, Group Home
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
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**Halinor Homes, Inc.
Halinor #2
861 Basetdale Avenue
Whittier, CA 90604
714-970-2080
License No.: 197800845
Rate Classification Level: 9**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Halinor 2 is one of two facilities operated by Halinor Homes, Inc. The facility is located in an unincorporated, residential area of Los Angeles County.

The overall condition of the home was adequate. However, there were several areas that needed improvement. In the living room, there was writing on the couch, the loveseat, an end table, and the carpet. The coffee table and the end tables were badly scratched and had worn finishes. In the resident bathroom, the bathtub was not clean.

The residents personalized their bedrooms, which reflected their style and tastes. In bedroom number one, the top of a dresser had water stains. There was writing on the wall in bedroom number three.

There was age-appropriate play equipment, including board games, video games, a ping-pong table, TV, DVD, and computer. There was a variety of books and magazines.

There was a sufficient supply of fresh and frozen food. Foods were properly stored to prevent spoilage.

Recommendations

1. Halinor 2 management:

- a. Remove writing from the couch, the loveseat, the end table, and the carpet.**
- b. Repair or replace the coffee and end tables.**
- c. Repair or replace the dresser in bedroom number one.**

- d. Remove the writing from the wall in bedroom number three.
- e. Establish a cleaning routine with regard to maintenance of the condition of the resident bathroom, specifically the bathtub.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents met Halinor 2's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement and they had initial diagnostic assessments.

The residents had current Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) that were realistic, measurable, and time specific. The residents and their placement workers participated in the development of NSPs.

The residents had not been at the facility long enough to require a quarterly report.

The residents were receiving individual and group therapy.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents were enrolled in and attending school. One resident attended a traditional high school and the other resident attended a continuation high school due to a lack of credits towards graduation.

The records contained a current report card for one of the residents. The resident recently enrolled in school and did not have a current report card on file. One of the residents required special education services and the file contained an Individualized Educational Plan for this resident. The residents reported that the staff assisted them with their school work and were supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program included development of daily living skills. The residents were involved in the planning and preparing of meals, received information on hygiene as needed, and were encouraged to obtain employment. Both residents were unemployed.

One resident was eligible to receive emancipation services, but was not enrolled in any emancipation training and/or independent living courses. The Agency administrator stated that the 16 year old residents were assisted with the completion of the emancipation contract and that the 17 year old residents were assisted with obtaining California Identification Cards. The Agency did not provide residents with sufficient emancipation training, independent living, and vocational training services. The Agency's administrator stated that it would work to improve services in this area.

Recommendations

2. Halinor 2 management:

- a. Maintain thorough educational records, which include current report cards.**
- b. Develop and implement a plan that will provide residents with an array of applicable emancipation services, independent living training, and information on vocational training opportunities.**

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Halinor 2 had a daily and monthly activity schedule. One resident reported that the Agency did not always follow the schedule. We discussed this issue with the Agency administrator who provided the Agency's driving log. The driving log showed that the residents attended most outings. The administrator stated that sometimes the residents chose not to go on the outing or other situations interfered with the planned activity. For example, the Agency canceled an outing when its sole vehicle had to be used to pick up a resident released from the hospital late in the day.

The residents reported that the Agency did not include them in the planning of activities. The Agency administrator stated that the residents were included in activity planning and that the residents provided suggestions for activities. The Agency did not finalize the activities until after the residents voted on the choices.

Residents had the opportunity to watch television, play games, and read at free time during the day. Residents were not aware that they could participate in self-selected activities. The Agency administrator reported that residents were allowed to participate in self-selected activities upon permission by their placement worker.

The Agency provided transportation to and from most scheduled activities. However, residents were encouraged to use public transportation as part of daily living skills.

Recommendations

3. Halinor 2 management:

- a. Follow activity schedule and document any deviations.**
- b. Include the residents in planning activities and document the plan.**
- c. Inform residents of the opportunity to participate in self-selected activities.**

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and management interviews

Comments:

There were five residents placed in the group home at the time of the review. We reviewed the residents' case files and noted that none of the residents were prescribed psychotropic medications. Halinor 2 management also confirmed that none of the Agency's residents received psychotropic medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents were presented with policies, rules and regulations when placed. The residents felt the rules were fair and that disciplinary consequences were applied in a fair manner. The residents stated that they felt safe in the home and there was a sufficient number of staff in the facility when the residents were present. The residents described the staff as disrespectful and were dissatisfied with the quality of their interactions with staff. The Agency administrator explained that the residents had been placed at the facility for 60 days or less and there had been a period of adjustment. The staff members have been instructed to maintain open verbal communication with the residents and to resolve problems in a timely manner.

The residents reported that they were free of interference with daily living functions and they were satisfied with the food.

The residents were provided with privacy during visits and telephone calls. They were able to have telephone contact with their social workers and families. The residents had religious freedom and they felt that their cultural and ethnic lifestyles were respected. Residents' health care needs were met.

The residents were aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations**4. Halinor 2 management:**

- a. **Ensure that residents are treated with respect and dignity.**
- b. **Provide on-going staff training to improve their skills in managing the behavior of the residents and to enhance the quality of the interactions between staff and residents.**

VII. Clothing and Allowance**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Halinor 2 provided appropriate clothing and items of necessity to the residents. Clothing provided to the residents was of good quality and sufficient quantity. Halinor 2 supplied its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of \$50 and the residents were given the opportunity to select their own clothes.

The residents received at least the required minimum weekly allowance, which they were able to increase based on the Agency's behavioral system.

Halinor 2 provided residents with adequate personal care items. The residents had secure and ample storage space for their personal belongings.

Residents were given the opportunity to maintain a life book.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.